

JS-6

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JULIE A. SU,
Acting Secretary of Labor, United States
Department of Labor

Plaintiff,

v.

A&J MEATS, a corporation; PRISCILLA
HELEN CASTILLO, an individual;
OLIMPIA BRAN, an individual;
O'BRAN LEASING COMPANY, a
company; and THE RIGHT HIRE, INC.,
a corporation,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:24-cv-04507-MCS-SK

**CONSENT JUDGMENT AND
PERMANENT INJUNCTION
AGAINST DEFENDANTS A&J
MEATS, PRISCILLA HELEN
CASTILLO, OLIMPIA BRAN,
O'BRAN LEASING COMPANY
AND THE RIGHT HIRE, INC.
(ECF No. 3)**

Hon. Mark C. Scarsi, United States
District Judge

Plaintiff Julie A. Su, Acting Secretary of Labor, United States Department of
Labor, and Defendants A&J Meats, Priscilla Helen Castillo, Olimpia Bran, and
O'Bran Leasing Company (collectively referred to hereinafter as the "A&J
Defendants") and Defendant The Right Hire, Inc. (hereinafter "The Right Hire")

CONSENT JUDGMENT AND PERMANENT INJUNCTION AGAINST DEFENDANTS A&J MEATS,
PRISCILLA HELEN CASTILLO, OLIMPIA BRAN, O'BRAN LEASING COMPANY AND THE RIGHT
HIRE, INC.

Case No. 2:24-cv-04507-MCS-SK

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1 (the A&J Defendants and Defendant The Right Hire are collectively referred to
2 hereinafter as “Defendants”, and Plaintiff and Defendants are collectively referred
3 to hereinafter as the “Parties”) have agreed to resolve the matters in controversy in
4 this civil action and agree to the entry of this Consent Judgment and Permanent
5 Injunction (“Consent Judgment”) as provided below.

6 **STATEMENTS BY AND AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE PARTIES**

7 A. The Acting Secretary filed her Complaint in the above-captioned
8 proceeding, naming Defendants and alleging violations of Sections 12(c), and
9 15(a)(4) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 212(c), 215(a)(4).

10 B. Defendants have retained counsel and acknowledge receipt of a copy
11 of the Acting Secretary’s Complaint in this action.

12 C. Defendants waive issuance and service of process of the Complaint
13 and their respective summonses and waive their response to the Acting Secretary’s
14 Complaint.

15 D. Defendants admit that the Court has jurisdiction over the Parties and
16 the subject matter of this civil action, and that venue lies in the Central District of
17 California.

18 E. The Parties agree to waive findings of fact and conclusions of law and
19 agree to the entry of this Consent Judgment without further contest.

20 F. Defendants agree herein to resolve all allegations of the Acting
21 Secretary’s Complaint.

22 G. Defendants admit that at all relevant times, they employed employees,
23 including deboner, packer, cleaner, and other employees, who processed poultry
24 and meat at the poultry and meat processing facility located at 15268 Proctor Ave,
25 Suite A, City of Industry, California 91745.

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CONSENT JUDGMENT AND PERMANENT INJUNCTION AGAINST DEFENDANTS A&J MEATS,
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HIRE, INC.

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1 H. Defendants represent that they and all individuals and entities acting
2 on their behalf or at their direction have notice of, and understand, the provisions
3 of this Consent Judgment.

4 I. Defendants acknowledge that violating any provision of this Consent
5 Judgment and Permanent Injunction may subject them to fines and penalties,
6 including punitive damages, heightened civil monetary penalties, or contempt.

7 **PERMANENT INJUNCTION**

8 Pursuant to the statements and agreements above, upon joint motion of the
9 attorneys for the Parties, and for cause shown,

10 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED** that,
11 pursuant to Section 17 of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 217, and the inherent authority of
12 the Court, Defendants, their agents (including any entities contracted to provide
13 labor or payroll services), officers, servants, employees, companies, and all persons
14 and entities acting at their direction or in concert or participation with their
15 direction, are permanently enjoined and restrained from violating the FLSA,
16 including through any of the following manners:

17 1. Contrary to Sections 6 and 15(a)(2) of the FLSA, paying any of their
18 employees who in any workweek are engaged in commerce or in the production of
19 goods for commerce or who are employed in an enterprise engaged in commerce
20 within the meaning of the FLSA, wages at a rate less than the local prevailing
21 minimum wage, which cannot be less than \$7.25 per hour (or at a rate less than
22 such other applicable minimum rate as may hereafter be established by amendment
23 to the FLSA).

24 2. Contrary to Sections 7 and 15(a)(2) of the FLSA, paying any of their
25 employees who in any workweek are engaged in commerce or in the production of
26 goods for commerce or who are employed in an enterprise engaged in commerce
27 within the meaning of the FLSA, less than one and half times the particular
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1 employee's regular hourly rate for hours worked in excess of 40 hours in a
2 workweek.

3 3. Contrary to Sections 11(c) and 15(a)(5) of the FLSA, failing to make,
4 keep, and preserve records of their employees and of the wages, hours and other
5 conditions and practices of employment maintained by them, as prescribed by the
6 regulations issued, and from time to time amended, pursuant to Section 11(c) of the
7 FLSA and found in 29 C.F.R. Part 516, including for each employee, the hours
8 worked each day and each workweek, the employee's regular hourly rate of pay,
9 total daily or weekly straight time earnings, overtime rate of pay, total premium
10 pay for overtime hours and identification of each deduction made from the
11 employee's earnings along with a description of the basis/reason and method of
12 calculation of the deduction.

13 4. Contrary to Section 11(a) of the FLSA, interfering or obstructing any
14 investigation of the Acting Secretary, including by directing employees not to
15 speak to the Acting Secretary or her representatives and/or otherwise deterring
16 them from cooperating in any investigation of the Acting Secretary through threats
17 and intimidation.

18 5. Contrary to Section 15(a)(3) of the FLSA, engaging in any retaliatory
19 action, such as discharging or in any other manner discriminating against any
20 employee because such employee has filed any complaint or instituted or caused to
21 be instituted any proceeding under the FLSA, has testified or is about to testify in
22 any such proceeding, or has otherwise exercised their rights under the FLSA by,
23 among other things, testifying or otherwise reporting information to the Acting
24 Secretary, or questioning whether the employer is paying the employee in
25 compliance with prevailing law. Prohibited discriminatory and retaliatory actions
26 include telling employees that communication with the Acting Secretary will result
27 in immigration, legal, criminal or other action against them and/or otherwise

1 deterring employees from cooperating with or speaking to the Acting Secretary's
2 representatives through threats, bribes or intimidation. Other prohibited
3 discriminatory and retaliatory acts include but are not necessarily limited to:
4 termination; discharge; layoffs; threats of termination, discharge or lay off;
5 reverifying the employment eligibility of an employee Defendants unlawfully
6 terminated; reduction to employees' work schedules or wages; intimidation; failure
7 to hire; and providing negative references.

8 6. Contrary to Sections 12(c) and 15(a)(4) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§
9 212(c) and 215(a)(4), employing minor children in occupations for periods and
10 under conditions which constitute oppressive child labor in an enterprise engaged
11 in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, including:

12 a. suffering or permitting to work any person under the age of 16
13 years in violation of 29 C.F.R. § 570.35, including by requiring such persons to
14 work more than 40 hours in any 1 week when school is not in session; work more
15 than 18 hours in any 1 week when school is in session; work more than 8 hours in
16 any 1 day when school is not in session; work more than 4 hours in any 1 day
17 when school is in session, including Fridays; and work between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00
18 p.m. in any 1 day, except during the summer (June 1 through Labor Day) when the
19 evening hour will be 9:00 p.m.;

20 b. suffering or permitting to work any person under the age of 16
21 years in an occupation prohibited by 29 C.F.R. § 570.33, including but not limited
22 to: work in freezers and meat coolers and all work in the preparation of meat for
23 sale except as permitted by 29 C.F.R. § 570.34(j) and occupations that the
24 Secretary of Labor, may, pursuant to section 3(l) of the FLSA, find and declare to
25 be hazardous for the employment of minors between 16 and 18 years of age or
26 detrimental to their health or well-being such as occupations in or about
27 slaughtering and meat packing establishments; and

1 c. suffering or permitting to work any person under the age of 18
2 years in any hazardous occupation prohibited by 29 C.F.R. § 570.61 and 29 C.F.R.
3 § 570.58, including but not limited to all deboning occupations and all occupations
4 involved in the operation of power-driven hoisting apparatus such as forklifts or
5 other high-lifts.

6 7. Contrary to Section 12(a) of the FLSA, shipping or delivering for
7 shipment in commerce any goods produced in an establishment in the United
8 States in or about which within thirty days prior to the removal of such goods
9 therefrom any oppressive child labor has been employed.

10 8. Contrary to Section 15(a)(1) of the FLSA, transporting, offering for
11 transportation, shipping, delivering, or selling in commerce, and/or shipping,
12 delivering, or selling with knowledge that shipment or delivery or sale thereof in
13 commerce is intended, any goods that have been processed and/or produced by any
14 employee whom Defendants failed to pay the federal minimum wage or the
15 overtime premium rate for hours worked over forty in the workweek.

16 9. Requesting, soliciting, suggesting, or coercing, directly, or indirectly,
17 any employee to return or to offer to return to Defendants or to someone else for
18 Defendants, any money in the form of cash, check, or any other form, for wages
19 previously due or to become due in the future, or other forms of monetary damages
20 or relief, to said employee under the provisions of this Consent Judgment, or the
21 FLSA; or accepting or receiving from any employee, either directly or indirectly,
22 any money in the form of cash, check, or any other form, for wages or monetary
23 damages heretofore or hereafter paid to the employee under the provisions of this
24 Consent Judgment or the FLSA.

25 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED** that,
26 pursuant to Section 17 of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 217, and the inherent authority of
27 the Court, Defendants, their agents, officers, servants, employees, companies, and
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1 all persons and entities acting at their direction or in concert or participation with
2 their direction, shall take the following affirmative actions:

3 10. Within ten (10) days of the date of entry of this Consent Judgment, the
4 A&J Defendants shall, for a period of four (4) years, do the following:

5 a. provide the Acting Secretary with the name of any business(es)
6 they operate, use, or lease property to which produces (as defined by 29 U.S.C. §
7 203(j) and 29 C.F.R. § 570.108) poultry or meat, or which sells or delivers poultry
8 or meat;

9 b. provide the Acting Secretary with the names of any poultry or
10 meat processing company any Defendant has retained to produce (as defined in 29
11 U.S.C. § 203(j) and 29 C.F.R. § 570.108) poultry or meat, or which sells or
12 delivers poultry or meat, and include the company name, contact person, telephone
13 number, and business address of each company;

14 c. provide to the Acting Secretary all addresses for any location at
15 which they are processing poultry or meat, or engaged in any work related to the
16 processing, sale, or delivery of poultry or meat;

17 d. notify the Acting Secretary of any third-party entities, including
18 contractors, that are providing staffing services to Defendants, with an explanation
19 of the services being provided, and to provide the Acting Secretary with a copy of
20 any contract(s) entered into with such entities; and

21 e. provide the Acting Secretary with Defendants' address,
22 telephone number, and email address, where they agree to be contacted for
23 purposes of communicating about and carrying out the provisions of this Consent
24 Judgment.

25 11. For a period of four (4) years from the date of entry of this Consent
26 Judgment, the A&J Defendants must immediately notify and inform the Acting
27 Secretary of any change to any of the information they previously provided to the
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1 Acting Secretary as required in Paragraph 10 above, including changes to their
2 business name or corporate form, the location where they operate, and the retention
3 or allowance of any other business or entity to manage employees or process
4 poultry or meat for them or at their facilities. The A&J Defendants shall notify the
5 Acting Secretary of any such changes no later than three (3) business days after
6 such changes have taken effect.

7 12. Defendants shall inform the Acting Secretary of any changes to their
8 contact information. Defendants shall notify the Acting Secretary of any such
9 changes no later than three (3) business days after any such changes have taken
10 effect.

11 13. Within ten (10) days of the date of entry of this Consent Judgment,
12 Defendants shall send a package consisting of a copy of the Notice of Rights
13 attached hereto as Exhibit 1, followed in sequence by a copy of this Consent
14 Judgment, to all current employees or employees of any poultry or meat processing
15 company operating at 15268 Proctor Ave, Suite A, City of Industry, California
16 91745, and in a language that they understand, and post this Consent Judgment and
17 Notice of Rights in such languages in a location or locations visible to all
18 employees, including the entrance to the workplace, any break areas, and in the
19 primary workroom. Within three (3) days of posting the package in the worksite,
20 Defendants shall send photographs to a Wage and Hour representative
21 demonstrating that this provision has been adhered to.

22 14. For a period of at least four (4) years from the date of entry of this
23 Consent Judgment, Defendants shall ensure that a copy of this Consent Judgment
24 and Exhibit 1 is provided to the following persons or entities and in a language
25 understood by the recipient as follows:

26 a. all future employees upon their retention who are hired or
27 rehired at any poultry or meat processing facility owned, operated, or controlled by
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1 any Defendant including the facility located at 15268 Proctor Ave, Suite A, City of
2 Industry, California 91745 following the entry of this Consent Judgment;

3 b. all persons to whom they offer employment at any poultry or
4 meat processing facility owned, operated, or controlled by any Defendant
5 including the facility located at 15268 Proctor Ave, Suite A, City of Industry,
6 California 91745;

7 c. all persons or entities providing labor or payroll services to
8 Defendants or their business operations for any poultry or meat processing facility
9 owned, operated, or controlled by any Defendant including the facility located at
10 15268 Proctor Ave, Suite A, City of Industry, California 91745;

11 d. all businesses and workers processing poultry or meat at any
12 poultry or meat processing facility owned, operated, or controlled by any
13 Defendant including the facility located at 15268 Proctor Ave, Suite A, City of
14 Industry, California 91745; and

15 e. any individual or entity responsible for hiring, firing,
16 supervising, paying, or otherwise managing Defendants' employees at any poultry
17 or meat processing facility owned, operated, or controlled by any Defendant
18 including the facility located at 15268 Proctor Ave, Suite A, City of Industry,
19 California 91745.

20 15. Within thirty (30) days of entry of this Consent Judgment, Defendants
21 shall provide FLSA training to all managers and supervisors addressing, at a
22 minimum, the FLSA provisions governing minimum wage, overtime,
23 recordkeeping, child labor, anti-retaliation, and interference. Defendants shall pay
24 an independent third-party contractor, who is not involved in this litigation and is
25 approved by a representative of the Acting Secretary, to conduct this training. A
26 contractor will not be considered independent if it is related to Defendants on the
27 date of this Consent Judgment or represents Defendants involved in this action in
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1 any dealings with other parties or the Department of Labor. The training shall be
2 for one session of not less than one hour with an opportunity for questions and
3 answers. Any contractor must make reasonable efforts to communicate with
4 Defendants' employees in languages with which the employees are comfortable, or
5 if the situation requires, the contractor will hire an interpreter as dictated by a
6 particular employee's circumstances. Defendants shall provide the Acting
7 Secretary seven days' notice in advance of the training and permit the Acting
8 Secretary's representative to attend the training. Defendants shall provide proof
9 that this training has occurred within seven (7) days of completing this required
10 training. Defendants shall provide the FLSA training required under this Paragraph
11 on an annual basis for a period of at least four (4) years.

12 16. For a period of six (6) months from entry of this Consent Judgment,
13 Defendants shall not terminate, fire, layoff, or furlough any employee, including
14 employees involved in processing poultry or meat, such as deboners, packers,
15 cleaners, or others, or participate in the termination, firing, layoff, or furloughing in
16 any manner of employees involved in the processing of poultry or meat, without
17 first giving the employee and the Acting Secretary notice at least seven (7) days
18 prior to such action describing who is being terminated, fired, laid off, or
19 furloughed, and the non-retaliatory business justification for doing so.

20 17. For every employee laid off or terminated between March 1, 2024 and
21 the date that this Consent Judgment is entered, Defendants shall only provide
22 neutral references for all employees, including employees involved in the
23 processing of poultry or meat, such as deboners, packers, cleaners, or others, upon
24 request from any subsequent employer or any third party, by only providing the
25 dates of the employment and job title of position held; no reference shall be made
26 to any employment law proceedings.

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1 18. For a period of four (4) years from the date of entry of this Consent
2 Judgment, Defendants shall allow the Acting Secretary, its representatives, or
3 agents to enter any location where any Defendants are processing, producing,
4 shipping, or delivering for shipment any poultry or meat to provide a one-hour
5 FLSA Notice of Rights training to all nonmanagerial employees of Defendants or
6 Defendants' lessees, and/or to freely speak to employees about Defendants'
7 compliance with this Consent Judgment and the FLSA. Defendants will tell
8 employees that they can stop working during this training and Defendants will
9 compensate employees for their time attending this training. The Acting Secretary
10 or its representatives shall be authorized to enter these locations four-times per
11 year to provide the training and speak with employees and shall be permitted to
12 return as necessary to train any employees who may have been absent. Further, to
13 the extent any Defendant is leasing property to an employer engaged in poultry or
14 meat processing operations, Defendant shall, as a condition of the lease, require
15 that their lessee agree to the terms of this Paragraph.

16 19. For a period of four (4) years from the date of entry of the Consent
17 Judgment, Defendants shall post signs that are at least three (3) feet long and three
18 (3) feet high at the entrances of any poultry or meat processing facilities in which
19 they operate or that they own, operate, control, or lease to other entities in English,
20 Spanish, and the Guatemalan languages of Qeqchi, and Mam, and in a manner that
21 is conspicuous and visible to all employees and the public, stating that no one
22 under the age of 18 is allowed to work at the facility or engage in deboning work,
23 work in a meat cooler, or operate power driven machinery.

24 20. With respect to any person who worked at the poultry processing
25 facilities located at 15268 Proctor Ave., Suite A, City of Industry, CA 91745 or
26 218 S. 8th Ave., La Puente, CA 91746 which were owned and/or operated by The
27 Exclusive Poultry Inc., Valtierra Poultry LLC, Meza Poultry LLC, or Tony Bran,

1 and who were laid off, fired, or terminated on or after September 28, 2023,
2 Defendants shall give a hiring preference to such persons to the extent there are
3 positions available at any entity that produces poultry or meat that Defendants
4 process or sell. A “hiring preference” means that any available openings will be
5 offered to these employees first before the positions are filled by other employees.
6 In providing an offer, Defendants shall keep the offer open for at least seven (7)
7 calendar days. Within ten (10) days of the entry of this Consent Judgment, and on a
8 monthly basis thereafter for one year, Defendants shall provide a report to the
9 Acting Secretary detailing (1) the offers of employment they have made to these
10 employees under this Consent Judgment, including such employees’ names and
11 contact information; and (2) employees’ acceptances or rejections of such offers.
12 The Acting Secretary shall furnish to Defendants a list of the persons believed to
13 have been laid off, fired, or terminated on or after September 28, 2023 within
14 seven (7) days of execution of this Consent Judgment, which Defendants shall use
15 to enable them to comply with this Paragraph. The Acting Secretary may update
16 the list, as necessary and appropriate, following the seven (7) day period, and any
17 updated list shall become the operative list under this Paragraph.

18 21. Defendants shall require either a certificate of age pursuant to 29
19 C.F.R. 570 Subpart B or documentary evidence of age that meets the requirements
20 of 29 C.F.R. § 570.7, for any employee if there is any reason to believe that the
21 employee’s age may be below the applicable minimum age for the occupation in
22 which the employee is to be employed. Such certificate or documentary evidence
23 of age should always be obtained where the employee claims to be only 1 or 2
24 years above the applicable minimum age for the occupation in which the employee
25 is to be employed. A certificate or documentary evidence of age shall also be
26 obtained for every employee claiming to be older than 2 years above the applicable
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1 minimum age if the employee's physical appearance indicates that this may not be
2 true.

3 22. Within sixty (60) days of signing this Consent Judgment, the A&J
4 Defendants shall engage, at their own expense, an independent third-party monitor
5 ("Independent Monitor") to monitor compliance with the FLSA and the terms of
6 this Consent Judgment at all facilities where Defendants process poultry or meat or
7 otherwise operate or perform work. Starting four months after the A&J
8 Defendants retain the Independent Monitor, the Independent Monitor shall conduct
9 at least quarterly unannounced visits to monitor Defendants' worksites, and more
10 frequently if the Independent Monitor or the Acting Secretary determines
11 additional monitoring to be warranted. The Independent Monitor shall be selected
12 from a list of potential monitors provided by the Acting Secretary or as otherwise
13 agreed upon with the Acting Secretary. The monitoring provision shall be in effect
14 for three (3) years from the date of entry of this Consent Judgment.

15 a. To ensure Defendants' compliance with the FLSA and this
16 Consent Judgment, the Independent Monitor must document, at a minimum: notes
17 from employee interviews; the name, address, phone number of each employee
18 performing work at the relevant facility and whether the employee is classified as
19 FLSA exempt, FLSA non-exempt; if the employee is paid based on a daily rate; if
20 the employee is paid in cash or by check; the start and end times of each
21 employee's work day for every work day during the period covered by the third-
22 party audit; the regular rate of pay for each employee; the gross weekly straight
23 time and overtime wages owed to each employee for each pay period covered by
24 the third-party audit based on the employee's hours worked and regular rate of pay;
25 and the gross weekly straight time and overtime wages actually paid to each
26 employee for each pay period covered by the third party audit;

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1 b. The Independent Monitor shall conduct interviews with
2 workers at the facilities where Defendants process poultry or meat or otherwise
3 perform work. Such interviews and other communications between workers and
4 the Independent Monitor may be kept confidential (except to authorized
5 representatives of the U.S. Department of Labor) at the option of each worker and
6 copies of all notes and interviews conducted by the monitor must be turned over by
7 the monitor to the District Director, West Covina office, U.S. Department of
8 Labor, along with the audit report, if requested by the District Director, West
9 Covina office, U.S. Department of Labor.

10 c. If the A&J Defendants and the Acting Secretary are not able to
11 agree on a monitor, the Acting Secretary may file a motion asking the Court to
12 select the Independent Monitor.

13 d. The Independent Monitor shall have the ability to communicate
14 with Defendants' employees in their primary language(s), or, shall be provided
15 with an interpreter as necessary at the A&J Defendants' expense.

16 e. Defendants shall cooperate fully with the Independent Monitor,
17 including by permitting it to enter facilities where Defendants process poultry or
18 meat, or otherwise perform work, without prior notice; inspect the working
19 conditions at such facilities; inspect all books, records, and documents requested
20 by the Independent Monitor, including employee time, payroll, and personnel
21 records; and perform other duties necessary to conduct the monitoring.

22 f. Subject to Paragraph 22(h), if the Independent Monitor finds
23 violations of the FLSA, or regulations issued under the FLSA, that result in back
24 wages due, Defendants shall pay the wages due within 30 days and shall prepare a
25 written report concerning the violations found and payments made, and provide a
26 copy of such report to the District Director of the Wage and Hour Division's West
27 Covina office.

1 g. Subject to Paragraph 22(h), if the Independent Monitor directs
2 changes in Defendants' policies and/or procedures, or directs Defendants to take
3 action to comply with the FLSA or regulations issued under the FLSA, Defendants
4 shall be required to do so promptly.

5 h. Should Defendants disagree with the findings and/or directives
6 of the Independent Monitor, Defendants shall notify the Acting Secretary in
7 writing within ten (10) business days of receiving the disputed instruction from the
8 Independent Monitor describing the issues in dispute and explaining the reasons
9 why they disagree with the Independent Monitor. The Acting Secretary shall
10 thereafter make a determination. If Defendants disagree with the Acting
11 Secretary's determination, the Acting Secretary at its discretion may present this
12 issue to the Court for adjudication.

13 23. If any Defendant hires, retains or utilizes a third-party service
14 provider, including Defendant The Right Hire, to provide labor to process poultry
15 or meat within an establishment owned, operated or controlled by a Defendant
16 ("Defendant's facility"), and/or otherwise to provide timekeeping or payroll
17 services with respect to those workers processing poultry or meat within a
18 Defendant's facility, then:

19 a. That Defendant shall enter into a written contract with such
20 third-party requiring that the third-party affirmatively:

21 i. acknowledge receipt and review of the Consent
22 Judgment;

23 ii. agree to provide a copy of the Consent Judgment and
24 Exhibit 1 to any employees or workers who work within Defendant's facility;

25 iii. agree to comply with the federal minimum wage,
26 overtime, recordkeeping, and child labor provisions of the FLSA as well as all state
27 law wage requirements;

iv. agree to screen all current and future workers to ensure that no oppressive child labor is being employed at Defendant's facility;

v. agree to implement and maintain a timekeeping system that accurately records the hours worked by employees consisting of the minimum requirements: employees must clock-in their start time and end time each day; employees must record their own hours and neither the third-party service provider nor Defendant shall clock-in for employees except to correct any timekeeping errors, such as when an employee fails to appropriately clock-in or out;

vi. agree to allow Defendant access to all payroll and timekeeping records it creates for employees working within Defendant's facility;

vii. agree to comply with any investigation conducted by the Acting Secretary pursuant to Section 11 of the FLSA, including freely interviewing any employees or workers performing work within Defendant's facility; and

viii. agree to quarterly monitoring per the terms set forth in Paragraph 22;

b. At the A&J Defendants' expense, the Independent Monitor selected pursuant to Paragraph 22 above, shall conduct annual monitoring of any payroll or labor provider to ensure that such provider's payroll and labor practices with respect to the workers processing poultry or meat are being compensated in compliance with the FLSA, that no oppressive child labor is being employed, and that the third-party is otherwise complying with the above terms of the contract as set forth above in Paragraphs 23(a)(i) to (viii);

c. Defendants shall notify the Acting Secretary of any suspected or actual violations of the FLSA which are occurring with respect to any workers performing work for Defendants within three (3) business days of learning of such suspected or actual violations.

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1 24. Defendants are permanently enjoined from communicating, directly or
2 indirectly, in any manner to any third party, such as other owners of poultry or
3 meat processing companies, regarding whether any employee may have or may be
4 perceived to have engaged in protected activity under the FLSA, including but not
5 limited to any connection any employee may have with the Department of Labor,
6 and are specifically enjoined from taking any other action to restrict or blacklist
7 such employee from seeking or obtaining any other work.

8 25. Defendants have an ongoing duty to provide the Acting Secretary with
9 access to all records required to be made, kept, or preserved under Section 11 of
10 the FLSA, including all other time, piece rate, employee, and payroll records, upon
11 request and no later than three (3) days after such request is made.

12 26. Should Defendants maintain a video monitoring system of employees
13 and/or workers, Defendants shall immediately provide the Acting Secretary with
14 access to review this footage upon request. The requirements of this Paragraph
15 shall remain in effect for a period of at least four (4) years from the date of entry of
16 this Consent Judgment.

17 27. Defendants have an ongoing duty to provide an earnings statement to
18 each of their employees, and ensure that any employee employed to assist in the
19 processing of poultry or meat, such as deboners, packers, cleaners, or others, each
20 time they are paid, beginning with the first paycheck issued following entry of this
21 Consent Judgment, with the following information: (1) gross wages paid to the
22 employee each workweek; (2) total hours worked each workweek; (3) a list of
23 itemized deductions from employees' pay; (4) net wages earned; (5) the inclusive
24 start and end dates of the pay period; (6) the employee's name and employee
25 identification number; (7) the applicable hourly rates (including straight time and
26 overtime rates) and corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate, or,
27 as applicable, the applicable piece rates (including the precise formula used to
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1 calculate the piece rate and overtime rates) and corresponding number of pieces
2 worked at each piece rate; (8) total straight-time wages paid; and (9) total overtime
3 wages paid. Defendants shall produce these earnings statements to the Acting
4 Secretary upon request and no later than three (3) days after such request is made.

5 28. All documents produced by Defendants as required under this
6 Consent Judgment must be produced in an electronic, searchable format to the
7 extent Defendants' documents are maintained or may be generated in such a
8 format. If a document cannot be generated in an electronic, searchable format, then
9 Defendants shall produce the document in an electronic format with all metadata
10 intact to the extent such metadata exists. If a subject document is produced in a
11 comma-separated-values ("CSV") file, such as an Excel spreadsheet, then the
12 documents must be produced in such format and not converted to a PDF.
13 Documents must be organized in a manner that clearly identifies the nature of the
14 documents.

15 29. Defendants have an ongoing duty to comply with the FLSA as
16 specified above and in all other respects, including but not limited to the minimum
17 wage requirements under Section 6 of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 206, including
18 compensating employees for any wait time as required under 29 C.F.R. Part 785.
19 Defendants shall also provide any "rest and recovery periods and other
20 nonproductive time" as required under California Labor Code 226.2 and
21 compensate any time donning and doffing equipment as required under 29 C.F.R.
22 Part 790; and reimburse any expenses incurred by an employee in furtherance of
23 his employer's interests and properly reimbursable by the employer as required
24 under Section 7(e)(2) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 207(e)(2), such as expenses
25 incurred by employees in connection with the purchase or maintenance of
26 equipment, tools, clothing, and supplies required for the employee's work.

27 ///

1 30. Defendants, their agents, servants, and employees, and any person in
2 active concert or participation with them, shall not in any way directly or
3 indirectly, demand, require or accept any of the monies received by any former or
4 current employees which have been paid under the terms of this Consent
5 Judgment. Defendants shall not threaten or imply that adverse action will be taken
6 against any employee because of their receipt of funds to be paid under this
7 Consent Judgment. Violation of this Paragraph may subject Defendants to
8 equitable and legal damages, including punitive damages and civil contempt.

9 31. Defendants have an ongoing duty to comply with the FLSA and
10 maintain payroll practices at any business they own, operate, or control, currently
11 and in the future, including as follows:

12 a. Defendants shall accurately record the information required by
13 29 C.F.R. § 516.2 in the payroll records, including, for each employee (1) all hours
14 worked by each workday and workweek, including all pre- and post-shift work
15 such as maintaining clothing, tools, and supplies, and donning and doffing; (2) the
16 rate(s) of pay for each of the hours worked during a workweek; (3) the number of
17 pieces completed by each workday and workweek, if employee is paid per piece;
18 (4) the total weekly straight-time earnings due for the hours worked during the
19 workweek; (5) the total premium pay for overtime hours; and (6) the dollar value
20 of all equipment, tools, clothing, and supplies paid for and used in or specifically
21 required for the employee's work;

22 b. Defendants shall record all wages paid to employees, regardless
23 of the manner of payment, on payroll records;

24 c. Defendants shall not alter or manipulate time or payroll records
25 to reduce the number of hours actually worked by an employee, and Defendants
26 shall not encourage workers to under-report their hours worked; and
27
28

1 d. Defendants shall not direct supervisors, employees, or payroll
 2 preparers to falsify time or payroll records in any manner including reducing the
 3 number of hours worked by employees, and Defendants shall direct supervisors
 4 and payroll providers to encourage workers to report all hours worked.

5 32. If Defendants choose to calculate pay through any type of individual
 6 production-based system, such as a piece rate system, Defendants shall
 7 immediately provide the following written notice to all current piece rate
 8 employees, and all future piece rate employees upon hire (or rehire), and in a
 9 language understood by them, and shall place the notice prominently around the
 10 workplace. The notice shall be translated into Spanish and any other language
 11 necessary for employees to be able to read the notice, and it shall read as follows:

12 *Employees who are paid on a piece rate still get overtime payments. You*
 13 *are entitled to advance notice of any piece rate payment, including exactly*
 14 *how the piece rate is calculated. You are entitled to advance notice if your*
 15 *employer makes any change to the piece rate payment. You are entitled to*
 16 *an individual piece rate and cannot be required to accept a group piece*
 17 *rate. Your regular piece rate payment does NOT include overtime, but it*
 18 *does include straight time pay for all hours worked. If you work more than*
 19 *40 hours in a work week, your employer must pay you a premium for*
 20 *overtime, above and beyond your piece rate. For example, if you worked*
 21 *50 hours in a workweek and earned \$1,000 from your piece rate work,*
 22 *your employer must pay you \$100 in overtime premium pay. This amount is*
 23 *calculated by taking your \$1,000 pay and dividing it by the 50 hours you*
 24 *worked to get \$20 per hour. \$20 per hour is your regular rate. The*
 25 *overtime premium means you must get paid 1.5 times of your regular rate.*
 26 *For the extra 10 hours you worked that week, you should have gotten paid*
 27 *$\$20 \times 1.5 = \30 per hour. Since your employer paid you \$20/hour, your*

1 *employer owes you \$10 overtime premium for the 10 hours you worked*
 2 *past 40 hours, meaning your employer owes you 10 x \$10 or \$100 in*
 3 *overtime premium pay. Your employer must give you a pay stub that shows*
 4 *your weekly earnings, how those earnings were calculated, and shows all*
 5 *deductions. Your employer must pay you for any time that you spend*
 6 *putting on or removing tools and clothes you are required to wear for*
 7 *work, such as knives to cut chicken or gloves, robes, and hairnets for your*
 8 *safety and food hygiene. Lastly, your employer must pay you for certain*
 9 *“wait time,” such as time spent waiting for poultry or meat to arrive, time*
 10 *spent waiting to count to count the number of boxes of poultry or meat that*
 11 *are cut, and time spent waiting to be paid.*

12 33. The A&J Defendants agree to a rebuttable presumption that any future
 13 employer or business operating at 15268 Proctor Ave, Suite A, City of Industry,
 14 California 91745 shall be deemed to be the A&J Defendants’ successors for which
 15 Defendants will be held personally liable for any non-compliance with the terms of
 16 this Consent Judgment, and subject to any contempt remedies which this Court
 17 deems appropriate, absent clear and convincing evidence otherwise.

18 34. For purposes of contacting the Acting Secretary under the terms of
 19 this Consent Judgment, Defendants shall notify:

20 Wage Hour Division, West Covina District Office

21 Attention: District Director

22 100 N. Barranca Street, Suite #850

23 West Covina, California 91791

24 **JUDGMENT**

25 35. **JUDGMENT IS HEREBY ENTERED**, pursuant to Section 16(c)
 26 and (e) of the FLSA, in favor of the Acting Secretary as a judgment owed to the
 27 United States of America and against Defendants in the total amount of

1 \$390,000.00, which includes \$327,484 in disgorgement of profits associated with
2 revenues earned from the unlawful employment of minors and the related shipment
3 or delivery for shipment in commerce of child labor “hot goods” in violation of
4 Section 12(a) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 212; and \$62,516 in civil money penalties
5 as a result of Defendants’ illegal employment of minors, which have been assessed
6 and finally determined pursuant to Section 16(e) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(e).

7 Pursuant to this Judgment, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

8 36. The A&J Defendants shall pay the total of \$380,000, representing
9 \$317,484 in unlawfully gained profits associated with their illegal employment of
10 minors and \$62,516 in civil money penalties. Defendant The Right Hire shall pay a
11 total of \$10,000 representing unlawfully gained profits associated with their illegal
12 employment of minors. Defendants shall pay the monies owed above within forty-
13 five (45) days of the entry of this Consent Judgment. Defendants shall make their
14 respective disgorgement payments required by this Consent Judgment online by
15 ACH transfer, credit card, debit card, or digital wallet by going to
16 <https://www.pay.gov/public/form/start/77761888>, or by going to www.pay.gov
17 and searching “WHD Back Wage Payment - WE Region”. Payments shall
18 reference Case Number #1993201. The A&J Defendants shall make the civil
19 money penalty payments required by this Consent Judgment online by ACH
20 transfer, credit card, debit card, or digital wallet by going to
21 <https://www.pay.gov/public/form/start/77743734>, or by going to www.pay.gov and
22 searching “WHD Civil Money Penalty - WE Region.”

23 37. In the event of any default in the timely making of any payment due
24 hereunder, the full judgment amount, which then remains unpaid, plus post-
25 judgment interest at the rate of 10% per year, from the date of Defendants’ default
26 until paid in full, shall become due and payable upon the Acting Secretary’s
27 sending by ordinary mail a written demand to the last available addresses of
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1 Defendants then known to the Acting Secretary with electronic copies also
2 concurrently e-served on Defendants or, if applicable, their counsel. Upon the
3 Acting Secretary's request, the Court will issue an amended judgment reflecting
4 the amounts due based on Defendant's default.

5 **FURTHER, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT**

6 38. The filing, pursuit, and/or resolution of this proceeding with the entry
7 of this Judgment shall not act as or be asserted as a bar to any action or claim under
8 FLSA § 16(b), 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

9 39. Each Party shall bear its own fees and other expenses incurred by such
10 Party in connection with any stage of this proceeding, including but not limited to
11 attorneys' fees, which may be available under the Equal Access to Justice Act, as
12 amended.

13 40. The Court shall retain jurisdiction of this action for purposes of
14 enforcing compliance with the terms of this Consent Judgment.

15 IT IS SO ORDERED

16 Dated: June 20, 2024



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18 Mark C. Scarsi
19 United States District Judge
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EXHIBIT 1

NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES OF YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE FLSA

There are state, local, and federal laws related to your workplace rights. The Department of Labor (DOL) enforces the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

YOUR IMMIGRATION STATUS DOES NOT MATTER AND DOES NOT IMPACT YOUR WORKPLACE RIGHTS

Under the FLSA, your employer must pay you:

- 1) Federal minimum wage (\$7.25 per hour) for all hours worked. (Your employer may owe you a higher minimum wage under California or local law.)
- 2) Overtime pay if you work more than forty hours per week.

You must be paid for all work you do for your employer. This might include: cutting chicken, throwing away garbage, moving chicken around the warehouse, cleaning your work station and work tools, sharpening your knives, wearing or removing required clothes and tools, waiting to count how many boxes of chicken you have cut, waiting for chicken to arrive if your employer instructs you to wait, and other activities your employer requires you to do.

Your employer must correctly document and report each hour you work and all pay you receive.

It is illegal for anyone to harm you because you talked to a DOL representative, participated in a DOL investigation, or spoke up about your workplace rights. It is illegal for your employer to take the following actions because you exercised your rights:

- Scream threats at you;
- Reduce your work hours or your pay;
- Fire you or fire any friends or relatives that work with you;
- Refuse to pay you for all hours you work;
- Refuse to hire you, or a relative or friend of yours;
- Report you to the government for deportation;
- Threaten you with legal problems or threaten to use their lawyer to harm you;
- Make any other threat or take any harmful action against you.

It is also illegal for anybody to make you sign a document in which you promise to tell a judge or any representative of the DOL false information about the hours you work, pay you receive, or anything else related to your FLSA rights. Any document you have signed promising to tell false information to a judge or anyone else has no legal value and cannot be used against you.

If any of these actions occur, please immediately contact the DOL hotline at (866) 487-9243

CONSENT JUDGMENT AND PERMANENT INJUNCTION AGAINST DEFENDANTS A&J MEATS, PRISCILLA HELEN CASTILLO, OLIMPIA BRAN, O'BRAN LEASING COMPANY AND THE RIGHT HIRE, INC.

Case No. 2:24-cv-04507-MCS-SK

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AVISO A LOS EMPLEADOS DE SUS DERECHOS BAJO LA FLSA

Existen leyes estatales, locales y federales relacionadas con sus derechos laborales. El Departamento de Trabajo (DOL) hace cumplir La Ley de Normas Justos De Trabajo (FLSA en inglés).

SU ESTATUS MIGRATORIO NO IMPORTA Y NO AFECTA SUS DERECHOS LABORALES.

Según la FLSA, su empleador debe pagarle:

- 1) Salario mínimo federal (\$7.25 por hora) por todas las horas trabajadas. (Su empleador puede deberle un salario mínimo más alto bajo la ley del estado de California o las leyes locales.)
- 2) Pago de overtime por horas extras si trabaja más de cuarenta horas por semana.

Se le debe pagar por todo el trabajo que haga para su empleador. Esto podría incluir: cortar pollo, recoger huesos, mover pollo de un lugar a otro dentro de la planta, limpiar su estación de trabajo y su herramienta, filar sus cuchillos, ponerse o quitarse la ropa o la herramienta requerida para hacer su trabajo, esperar por contar el número de cajas cortadas, esperar por el pollo si su empleador le dice que tiene que esperar, y otras actividades que su empleador lo requiere hacer.

Su empleador debe documentar y reportar correctamente cada hora que trabaja y todos los pagos que recibe.

Es ilegal que alguien le haga daño porque habló con un representante del DOL, participó en una investigación del DOL o habló sobre sus derechos ante la FLSA. Es ilegal que su empleador tome las siguientes medidas porque ejerció sus derechos de FLSA:

- Gritarle amenazas a usted;
- Reducir sus horas de trabajo o la cantidad que gana;
- Terminarlo o terminar a un colega o familiar que trabaja con usted;
- Negarse a pagarle por todas las horas que trabaja;
- Negarse a emplear a usted, o a un familiar suyo;
- Reportar al gobierno su deportación;
- Amenazarlo con problemas legales o amenazar con usar al abogado del empleador para hacerle daño;
- Hacer cualquier otra amenaza o tomar cualquier acción dañina contra usted.

También es ilegal que alguien le obligue a firmar un documento en el que promete decirle a un juez o a cualquier representante del DOL información falsa sobre las horas que trabaja, el pago que recibe o cualquier otra cosa relacionada con sus derechos a la FLSA. Cualquier documento que haya firmado con la promesa de proporcionar información falsa a un juez o a cualquier otra persona no tiene valor legal y no puede usarse en su contra.

**Si ocurre alguna de estas acciones, comuníquese inmediatamente con el DOL al:
(866) 487-9243**